

**WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION
WILDLIFE DIVERSITY PROGRAM
2008 COOPERATIVE RESEARCH GRANT GUIDANCE**

Proposals are due no later than December 31, 2007. Awards will be made no later than March 31, 2008. Proposals should be mailed to:

**Cooperative Projects Director
WV DNR Operations Center
P. O. Box 67
Elkins, WV 26241-0067**

Inquiries may be made to:

**Dawn Hale
304-637-0245
dawnhale@wvdnr.gov**

The West Virginia Cooperative Research Grant Program (WVCRGP) seeks proposals for research projects that address research needs either specifically identified in this announcement or more generally described in the “**West Virginia Wildlife Conservation Action Plan, *It’s About Habitat...***” (available on our website www.wvdnr.gov). Proposals submitted must specifically identify how project objectives address the identified needs.

The WVCRGP seeks to fund projects which will be completed within one 12-month project cycle and to limit project funding to no more than \$8,000. However, worthy projects addressing high-priority needs may be funded for longer time periods and/or for larger dollar amounts.

The WVCRGP requires that a valid and documented non-federal funding match be provided by the applicant. The minimal matching amount generally considered is 25 percent of total project cost. The agency will require documentation of matching funds prior to authorizing invoice payments. Matching funds may be provided as cash or as in-kind services. In any event, **the match cannot come from any federal source.**

A complete project proposal must be submitted by 31 December 2007 (one paper copy and one digital copy). A complete proposal should include the following components:

- Receipt Notification Form
- Project Proposal
 - Abstract
 - Justification and Need
 - Objectives
 - Methods

- Schedule
- Deliverables (digital and paper copies of resulting reports, papers, theses, presentations and posters are required)
- Budget Summary
- References Cited
- Appendix
 - Detailed Budget Sheet (paper and digital copies of the Excel spreadsheet – template provided upon request)
 - *Curriculum Vitae* of all project principals

Priority research topics for 2008 include:

- Statewide distribution and status of:
 - Leopard frogs
 - Midland smooth softshell turtle
 - Northern map turtle
 - Ouachita map turtle
 - Spadefoot toad
 - Spotted skunk
 - Loggerhead shrike (distribution, status, threats (statewide))
 - Allegheny woodrat (especially in southern WV)
 - Rafinesque's big-eared bat (Southern WV only with emphasis on Wayne County)
 - Swainson's warbler
- Bat hibernaculum surveys in Greenbrier and Pocahontas counties (to incorporate Allegheny wood rat and cave salamander surveys)
- Preliminary work to develop a statewide breeding bird atlas to include
 - Development of a plan to implement a statewide BBA
 - Scope of work
 - Staffing needs
 - Approach
 - Timeline
 - Budget
 - Potential for engagement of volunteers
 - Incorporation of extant data
 - Publication options
 - etc.
 - Protocol development
 - Website development
- Golden-winged Warbler
 - Characterize occupied and nesting habitat in great detail; relate demographic data to habitat to identify optimum conditions
 - Develop management guidelines to create/maintain habitats
 - Concentrate on managing WMA Wildlife Openings, timber harvests, mine reclamation sites and Forest Service grazing allotments. Include utility rights-of-way if feasible.

- Presence/absence surveys for freshwater mussels (locations provided upon expression of interest)
- Breeding bird point counts (locations provided upon expression of interest)
- Prototypical development and implementation of a process to propagate and restore the federally listed endangered plant species harperella (*Ptilimnium nodosum*). Details upon request.
- Prototypical development and implementation of a process to propagate and restore the Elk River Crystal (Diamond) Darter (*Crystallaria asprella spp.*) Details upon request.